

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 USNATO 01789 01 OF 02 221128Z

ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13
L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02
SS-15 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 W
-----115175 221135Z /21

O 221111Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION USNATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9452

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE BE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 USNATO 01789

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO, MBFR

SUBJECT: MBFR: WORKING GROUP STUDY OF AVERAGE MANNING
LEVELS

REF: (A) STATE 44043 DTG 182121Z FEB 78, (B) USNATO 1566
DTG 152104Z FEB 78

-

SUMMARY: WORKING GROUP REACHED AD REF AGREEMENT ON
AVERAGE MANNING LEVEL (AML) TEXT WHICH LARGELY INCORPOR-
ATES US SUGGESTIONS REF A. CAPITALS ARE REQUESTED TO
CONCUR BY SILENCE PROCEDURE BY COB 27 FEBRUARY.
ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL OF ADREF TEXT. END SUMMARY.

-

1. DURING 21 FEBRUARY MEETING, MBFR WG REACHED AD REF
AGREEMENT ON TEXT OF AVERAGE MANNING LEVEL STUDY.
FOLLOWING REVISIONS ARE KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS OF REF B.

-

(A) PARA 8:

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 USNATO 01789 01 OF 02 221128Z

-WG ACCEPTED US SUGGESTION (PARA 3A, REF A) FOR REVISED
PARA BUT INCLUDED AT STRONG FRG AND UK REQUEST ORIGINAL
LANGUAGE THAT AML CALCULATED TO REVEAL NATO'S WAR
AUTHORIZED STRENGTH IS UNACCEPTABLE.

-

BEGIN TEXT:

ANY FORMULA WHICH WOULD PERMIT CALCULATION OF WAR

MANNING LEVELS (WAR AUTHORIZED STRENGTH) IS MOST UN-
LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTABLE TO THE WARSAW PACT AND IS
UNACCEPTABLE TO NATO FOR SECURITY REASONS. IT MIGHT BE
CONCLUDED, THEREFORE, THAT THE MOST PROBABLE FORMULA
INTENDED BY THE EAST WOULD BE 7A ABOVE. HOWEVER, IT IS
PREMATURE TO MAKE SUCH A CONCLUSION, AND BEFORE THIS
FORMULA CAN BE PROPERLY ASSESSED, CONFIRMATION WILL BE
REQUIRED FROM THE EAST AS TO WHETHER THE WARSAW PACT
DIRECT PARTICIPANTS HAVE THE EQUIVALENT OF NATO'S
PEACETIME AUTHORIZED STRENGTH. END TEXT.

-

(B) PARA 9:

FRG REP SUGGESTED DRAFT PENULTIMATE SENTENCE TO THE
EFFECT THAT EXCHANGE OF AML PERCENTAGES ON THE BASIS
IMPLIED BY THE EAST IN PARA 9 COULD HAVE NEGATIVE
IMPLICATIONS ON NATO'S CONCEPT OF A COLLECTIVE COMMON
CEILING. UK AND NE REPS REJECTED THE PROPOSAL AS A
POLITICAL POINT OUT OF PLACE IN THE WG STUDY AND
CONTRARY TO THEIR NATIONAL POSITIONS THAT A DATA EX-
CHANGE WOULD NOT PREJUDICE NATO'S POSITION ON COLLECTIVITY.
THE UK REP SUGGESTED A COMPROMISE FINAL SENTENCE TO READ

-

BEGIN TEXT: IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN CONFIRMATION
OF THIS POINT, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBLE
NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS FOR THE ALLIED CONCEPT OF THE
COLLECTIVE COMMON CEILING. END TEXT.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 USNATO 01789 01 OF 02 221128Z

-

COMMENT: UK REP OFFERED THIS COMPROMISE ON CONDITION
THAT THE POINT NOT BE REITERATED IN THE CONCLUSIONS.
FRG REPS INSTRUCTIONS APPARENTLY GIVE HIM LITTLE LEEWAY
ON THE COLLECTIVITY ISSUE AND THE COMPROMISE, ALTHOUGH
PERSONALLY ACCEPTABLE TO FRG REP, MAY BE REJECTED BY
BONN. END COMMENT.

-

(C) PARA 15:

- WG NOTED OMISSION CITED PARA 2A, REF A CORRECTING
FINAL TWO SENTENCES TO READ:

-

BEGIN TEXT: IT IS, HOWEVER, A SOUNDLY BASED ASSESSMENT
OF WARSAW PACT STRENGTH (FOR 1976 IN THE CASE OF
MCM-86-76). AS IT REPRESENTS THE BEST ESTIMATE OF THE
WARSAW PACT'S ACTUAL STRENGTH, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE
DISCREPANCY CAN BE EXPLAINED ONLY BY INTELLIGENCE ERROR.
END TEXT.

COMMENT: PARA 15 IS OF SOME CONCERN TO SHAPE AND FRG
REPS AS TO WHETHER THE VALIDITY OF NATO'S ASSESSMENTS
OF WP STRENGTH IS SUFFICIENTLY AFFIRMED. THE PARA IS A
MUCH DEBATED CONSTRUCT WHICH MAY REQUIRE FURTHER DIS-

CUSSION BEFORE FINAL AGREEMENT. END COMMENT.

-

(D) PARA 17:

-AFTER US REP PRESENTED SUGGESTIONS FOR REVISIONS (REF A PARA 3B), UK, FRG AND NE REPS OPPOSED FURTHER CHANGE IN PARA STATING THAT THIS TABLE ALONE REMAINS FROM EARLIER DRAFTS AND PROVIDES A USEFUL STATISTICAL ILLUSTRATION OF THE CONCEPT. THEY SUGGESTED THAT US POINT THAT AML NEED NOT BE DETERMINED BY COMPARING ACTUAL STRENGTH WITH PEACETIME AUTHORIZED STRENGTH IS PROTECTED IN PARAS

SECRET

NNN

SECRET

PAGE 01 USNATO 01789 02 OF 02 221129Z

ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 EUR-12 H-01 INR-10 IO-13

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02

SS-15 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 W

-----115201 221138Z /21

O 221111Z FEB 78

FM USMISSION USNATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9453

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

USNMR SHAPE BE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 USNATO 01789

8 AND 16.

(E) PARA 22:

-

-SUPPORTING US SUGGESTION (PARA 2B, REF A), UK REP ALSO PROPOSED CLARIFYING LANGUAGE FOR FINAL SENTENCE. REVISED SENTENCE READS:

-

BEGIN TEXT: "...BUT COULD BE SED BY THE EAST IN AN ATTEMPT TO UNDERMINE THE CREDIBILITY OF THOSE ASSESSMENTS" END TEXT.

-

(F) PARA 22:

-WG ACCEPTED US PROPOSED FOOTNOTE (PARA 3C, REF A) TO FOLLOW SECOND SENTENCE.

-

(G) PARA 24(A):

- WG ACCEPTED US PROPOSAL (PARA 3D, REF A) TO DELETE SECOND SENTENCE. SUBPARA NOW CONSISTS OF ONLY FIRST SENTENCE AND MAKES NO CONCLUSION ON LIKELY WP FORMULA
- SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 USNATO 01789 02 OF 02 221129Z

FOR DEVISING AML.

-

(H) PARA 24(E):

- SUBPARA WAS REVISED TO REFLECT CHANGES IN PARA 15 (1C ABOVE) TO READ

-

BEGIN TEXT: ...IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE DISCREPANCY CAN BE EXPLAINED ONLY BY INTELLIGENCE ERROR... END TEXT.

-

(I) PARA 24G:

- FINAL SENTENCE WAS REVISED TO INCORPORATE LANGUAGE IDENTICAL TO THAT IN PARA 1E ABOVE.

-

2. ADREF TEXT WAS REFERRED TO CAPITALS FOR AGREEMENT BY SILENCE PROCEDURE BY COB MONDAY, 27 FEBRUARY. NEXT MBFR WG MEETING TENTATIVELY SET FOR WEDNESDAY, 1 MARCH. GLITMAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: STUDIES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USNATO001789
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780079-1012
Format: TEL
From: USNATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780225/aaaaavez.tel
Line Count: 197
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 48789ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ACDA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 44043, 78 USNATO 1566
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3513796
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MBFR: WORKING GROUP STUDY OF AVERAGE MANNING LEVELS
TAGS: PARM, BE, NATO, MBFR
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/48789ed1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014